

THE DIRTY BENSADDES

AND THE SCANDAL THEY HAVE CREATED.

Lilly Langtry and Her Escort and Mrs. Dion Boucicault's Mission to Stir Up Strife.

New York, October 4.—Mr. Harrison Gray Elwell writes as follows to the New York Star: I have been reading daily from Monday to Saturday, inclusive. I find that eight and a half columns of its space have been devoted to the Cameron case, and less than two columns to criticisms and legitimate news of the stage. The reports in question are somewhat less objectionable than those of the other papers, for the simple reason that the wealthy proprietor of the paper is a person that can afford to ignore the title who consent to affiliate with him in clubland and on the turf, and his staff are instructed, it is said, to prevent everything connected with the affair in such a manner as to make out the best possible case for his friend, the ignominious nobleman who figures so conspicuously in it.

The reporter's emissaries of this venacious chronicle began to get in their fine work on Monday morning, when they told us all about the arrival of the member of the cast in this little three-cornered play of more or less contemporary human interest. His lordship, like the others, talked freely to the newspaper men. He said of course that he was glad to be back again in America; that he would go shooting here if he got the chance; for he missed his favorite pastime of cub hunting; that he had tried to cut his wife's throat, and if he tried to make a fuss in New York the actress and himself were ready to meet and reply to any charge.

Miss Cameron said that she knew there had been some story in the papers about her coming, but she relied on American common sense to avert injurious prejudices; that everybody told her people wouldn't stand any of De Bensaude's tricks in this country, and that the unprejudiced American people would be able to see through the tricks of a blackmailer who had tried to cut his wife's throat, and if he tried to make a fuss in New York the actress and himself were ready to meet and reply to any charge.

De Bensaude, being merely Miss Cameron's husband and therefore not posing the wife and her lordly protector, was dismissed with a few lines. He was, however, allowed to proclaim that his confidence had been abused and his manhood outraged, and that the principal object of his visit was to keep a close watch upon his wife and see that she behaved herself.

As a sort of underplot, the complications of the plot were well heightened by the statement that Mrs. Langtry was escorted from the dock to her home by a well known man, and that Mrs. Dion Boucicault, the first, had arrived for the purpose of continuing her warfare against her recent spouse.

Then the action of the play proper—or improper—commented in earnest. We were shown the movements of the triad down to the smallest detail. We were told what they were, what they said, what they did, and what they thought. We were told that Mrs. Langtry was escorted from the dock to her home by a well known man, and that Mrs. Dion Boucicault, the first, had arrived for the purpose of continuing her warfare against her recent spouse.

A shrewd suspicion that the whole thing was a huge advertising scheme began to gain circulation and belief. Next we were informed that De Bensaude was going to kill Mrs. De Bensaude with a dagger. Mrs. De Bensaude was willing to buy him off. At this point the mingled ingredients of farce and tragedy were exchanged for melodrama. The metropolitan audience was introduced to several new dramatic personae, including a policeman, some lawyers and a judge. The Tombs held its Egyptian gloom over the tableau that brought down the curtain on the first portion of the piece. But it was not the good old fashioned tableau of vice punished and virtue triumphant. Why? Well, simply because there were no available vice in the case.

Sandwiched in between some drunk and disorderly subjects for judicial deliberation came this cause celebre. His lordship told his story, Violet backed him up, and the unenviable husband caught relief and sympathy in a flood of Arabian tears. The wretched man that came a matter of some 3000 miles to obtain a little pecuniary tam for his lacerated heart and outraged honor was put back in his cell, while the lord and the lady rattled off gayly and victoriously in a haughty.

This, in brief, is a synopsis of the plot, so far as it has been unfolded. What other startling and sensational situations there may be in store the coming fortnight alone can determine. To sustain the public interest, they will have to be piled on thick and fast, in the proverbial Surrey style.

The effect of this notorious scandal has been deep, and in certain respects it is likely to be lasting. It has brought about a most depressing eruption on the face of the press, pandering to vicious appetites, digested decent folk, and covered the name of the press with obliquity and shame. On this last mentioned account I wish to enter an emphatic protest against the prevalent newspaper policy that seeks to degrade the whole theatrical profession by turning its press into steam laundries for the washing of dirty linen, against the men of wealth and family that use the theater as a convenient abiding place for their mistresses, against the women that debase the stage by utilizing its publicity as a means of advertising their prostitution, and against a branch of amusement that has been the town talk for six days past.

The Cameron affair differs from many other theatrical scandals only in the extra publicity it has attained, this being due to the complicity of the real English earl. The other actors have cropped out and similar tactics have

been employed in handling them. Look at the numerous Salome's, the domestic spies and legal scrapes of a second-class composer and a good-looking comic opera singer have again and again been magnified into abnormal importance and formed the subject for immense reams of rectorial and editorial comment. This is but one example of many that might be offered, but it will suffice for my purpose. The more "spicy" and licentious the matter, the more space does it command. The stage lies very close to the hearts of the people, and the human side of popular actors is something that reporters are always glad to know about. But it does not follow this reason that the loss acts of loose men and women—of whom there are necessarily many in the profession under existing conditions—should be reprinted in print that presumably reach the eyes of modest women and high minded men.

The trio involved in the Cameron case are a bad lot, evidently. It is impossible to say whether husband, wife or protegee figure the most unenviable. All three have shown a perfect indifference to public opinion and have dragged their disgusting relations into the light without reluctance.

The work of emancipating the stage from the unjust hostility of traditional prejudice and flimsy Puritanism has been hindered by the constant imputation of some of its people and the scandalous bent of a large proportion of the press. Unfortunately the entire profession suffers acutely from these ignominious and frequently recurring outbreaks.

It is part of the actor's own fault. He bugs the title of the play that he is to perform, and there are as many black sheep in that fold as in his own, and, therefore, nothing need be said or done. But he forgets, in his supreme method of looking at it, that when a lawyer does anything unprofessional he may be thrown out of the bar; that a doctor who offends against the unwritten laws of his calling is expelled from the ranks of regular practitioners; and that the clergyman who is found guilty of conduct unbecoming the cloth is promptly fired out of the church. Of course the actor belongs to no association that can adopt its own measures and take similar action. But he certainly can assume a firm stand against the people that disgrace his vocation. There are enough spotless men and women on the boards to drive from them the black sheep that are inclined to affiliate or perform with them. The stage must regulate its own morality and protect itself from infamy. The press and public have refused to aid them in the task, but it can be done without their aid.

HOSTILE APACHE INDIANS REPORTED AS BEING ON THE WARPATH IN THE SOUTHWEST—MANGUS, Half Brother of Geronimo, in Command—No News at Washington.

EL PASO, Tex., October 5.—News has been received here which confirms what has been feared for several weeks, to wit, that the Apaches are still out, and the capture of Geronimo will not end the Apache war. Lieut. Bitt Davis, recently of the United States army, is now manager of the Gerolito ranch in the State of Chihuahua. Eight hostile Apaches were captured during his absence and drove away twenty mules. He stated in pursuit, and after following the thieves for several days, under the impression that they were rustlers, came up with them only sixty miles from this city, in the state of Chihuahua. He was amazed to find that they were Apaches, not rustlers. A sharp battle ensued, but none of the lieutenant's party were seriously hurt. The Apaches have evidently been camping for months only ninety miles from El Paso. Lieut. Davis says that Old Mangus was the leader of the thieves. Mangus has been for twenty years the terror of the border. He is regarded as a far able tactician than Geronimo, and is imbued with a deeper hatred of the whites. Mangus and Geronimo are half brothers, both being sons of the great Apache chief Mangus Colorado, said to have been the worst Indian ever known to early white settlers. Lieut. Davis says he pursued Mangus and his band to within twenty-five miles of El Paso, where he abandoned the trail, which led in this direction—no, however, until he had learned that Mangus had been joined by the three bands of Geronimo's party who escaped from Fort Bowie. Davis thinks the hostilities are by this time in New Mexico, and that they intend to make a raid through New Mexico, Arizona, and thence into Sonora.

No Official Confirmation of the Report.

WASHINGTON, October 5.—No official confirmation of the report that a new Apache raid is in progress has been received at the War Department, but the report is not considered improbable. Mangus, who is said to be at the head of the party, was last sighted by the troops about a year ago. He was then 20 or 30 miles south of the Mexican line. Six other Apaches disappeared with him. It has been since reported that Mangus was dead, but this is not known to be the fact.

THE SEPTEMBER FIRE LOSS In the United States and Canada—A Slight Decrease.

New York, October 4.—The September fire loss in the United States and Canada, according to the estimate of the New York Commercial Bulletin, was \$1,500,000, a slight decrease from the average September loss of previous years. The Bulletin's fire record contains mention of 129 September fires, which caused a loss of \$10,000,000 more. There were twelve fires of over \$100,000 during the month. Up to October 1st, the aggregate fire waste in 1886 was \$83,000,000, against \$70,100,000 for the same period of 1885, so that with October, November and December yet to be heard from, there is no likelihood of a lower figure than \$100,000,000 to be charged for fires in 1886.

In the Bear Old Days.

We differ in creed and politics, but we are a unit all the same on the desirableness of a fine head of hair. If you mourn the loss of this blessing and ornament, a bottle or two of Parker's Hair Balsam will make you look as you did in the dear old days. It is worth trying. The only standard 50 cents article for the hair.

Refused to Co-operate with the Methodists.

Boston, Mass., October 4.—The Baptist ministers, at a meeting today, refused to co-operate with the Methodist ministers in furthering the appearance of the Rev. Sam Jones and Sam Small in a series of meetings in this city.

The Knoxville Fair will commence on Tuesday, the 12th instant, and continue four days.

VOLCANIC ERUPTION

ON THE ISLAND OF NIAPU, OF THE TUGA GROUP

Of the Friendly Islands, and It Is Covered With Volcanic Dust—The Ruptured Earth.

MELBOURNE, October 5.—A volcanic eruption has occurred on the island of Niapu, one of the Tugagroup of the Friendly Islands. The whole island is now covered with volcanic dust. Hapai has a population of about 500. A steamer has been dispatched to ascertain their present condition.

Night.—The earthquake destroyed every village on the island of Niapu. The inhabitants escaped. The island is covered twenty feet with volcanic dust, and at one place a new hill 200 feet high has been formed.

The Ruptured Earth.

In referring to the recent earthquake the Boston Globe speaks of cracks in the crust of the earth extending through the great mountain ranges and Vermont, and quotes Prof. Brigham as "not being sanguine about New England being a safe place to live in." Others refer to a great depression in the Atlantic along the coast of the United States. Some years ago I took a few notes concerning the deep sea, and the level taken by the United States and other surveying expeditions showing the great depression, and perhaps they may be of interest to your readers.

There seems to be a deep channel or chasm through the Atlantic bed from the northward of the Arctic toward the north and westward, and following the United States coast, turns abruptly to the eastward opposite Charleston, S. C., and widening, passes some distance south of the Grand Banks south of Newfoundland. This channel is deep, extending from the north to the south, and is 350 fathoms, or 20,000 feet, while its sides rise to within 1800 fathoms, or 10,800, of the surface. The Bermuda [is.] lies in the southern edge of this chasm near the eddy, as it were, of the abrupt point of turning opposite Charleston, S. C. Along the northern edge of this chasm, and opposite the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, is a still deeper depression, with some holes along the southern edge, where the bottom appears to have dropped out entirely, reaching a depth of nearly six miles. This deep, however, is not a straight line, but is a series of small depressions, and at the end of a southern spur, is a tremendous crater seven miles and a half deep with a narrow rim of only four miles and a half depth, the crater being two miles deep from the sea level, that is the top of the mountain, and the bottom of the crater is 1800 fathoms, or 10,800, of the surface. The Bermuda [is.] lies in the southern edge of this chasm near the eddy, as it were, of the abrupt point of turning opposite Charleston, S. C. Along the northern edge of this chasm, and opposite the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, is a still deeper depression, with some holes along the southern edge, where the bottom appears to have dropped out entirely, reaching a depth of nearly six miles. 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